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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

NIC-00765-87/1
24 February 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

FROM:

Acting National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: February Warning and Forecast Report

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1. Attached is my report to the DCI based on our warning meeting held on 18 February 1987.

2. Next month's warning meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 March 1987 at 1025 in room 7-E-62, CIA Headquarters. Please telephone attendance plans to our office and have clearances certified by COB 16 March 1987.

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3. I also encourage you to phone in suggestions for the agenda and names of volunteers to make opening presentations. It would be helpful to have your comments for the next meeting by Thursday, 12 March 1987.

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Attachment

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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NIC-00765/87
24 February 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [REDACTED]

Acting National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT: February Warning and Forecast Report

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I. MAIN DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. [REDACTED]

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B. Hungary: Indecision and Instability

1. Discussion. [REDACTED] recent reports indicates factional infighting is spreading within the top leadership, with Party leader Janos Kadar increasingly seen as the chief cause of drift and inaction.

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The regime's inability to resolve a challenge from the Hungarian Writers' Union, whose Congress last November ousted regime loyalists from the union leadership, heightens the restlessness and anxiety. Kadar's "alliance" strategy with the intelligentsia -- captured in the slogan that "he who is not against us is with us" -- is rapidly breaking down, as intellectuals increasingly reject the regime demands for self-censorship. Ironically, the Writers Union mavericks made their challenge at a time when the Soviet view of such antics is muddled by Gorbachev's permissiveness toward the Soviet cultural scene. Budapest thus cannot credibly claim Soviet pressures as a pretext for any crackdown.

2. Warning Notice. A major embarrassment for Kadar could develop if the Writers' Union were to endorse formally dissident programs for increased democratization and a full review of the suppression of the revolt in 1956. Even short of that, the regime's protracted failure to resolve the impasse in the union sharpens factional divisions, adds to existing pressures for Kadar to step down, and could yet become an important test for "glasnost" in the broader East European context.

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II. MONITORING ITEMSA. Allied Nervousness Over US Military Deployments in the Middle East

1. Discussion. Our West European allies across the board have expressed concern about a possible US military operation in the Middle East. They have avoided publicized multilateral meetings with the US which might be construed as prior collaboration. But their eventual reactions would be highly scenario-dependent -- i.e., vary according to the goals, degree of success and justifications for US actions.

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